

RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT #MA-510

I – Problem Title

Control of Invasive and Noxious Weeds

II – Research Problem Statement

What are some of the BEST methods, practices and options that Caltrans should implement (as part of a multi-agency effort towards statewide eradication) to control both invasive and noxious weeds?

III – Objective

Identify the best methods, practices and options – which Caltrans may or may not be currently implementing....

For example – on methods – is mowing and spraying the best two IVM methods currently used to eradicate invasive and noxious weeds?

For example – on practices – are our mowing times and mowing heights the best/most appropriate for control of noxious and invasive weeds?

For example -on options, is it best to have another agency in the lead and Caltrans just follows? (such as the local county agricultural commissions) Maybe they spray and we provide the chemicals? Or ?

IV – Background

For years Caltrans has basically been mowing and spraying our roadsides for vegetation control. However, the invasion of noxious and invasive weeds throughout California has continued to become more important in respect to how such invaders affect the economy of California. Many agencies are involved in reducing the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Noxious and invasive weeds (in comparison to wanted/acceptable vegetation types) negatively affect Californians in multiple ways.

V – Statement of Urgency and Benefits

Urgency, benefits and expected return on investment is currently unknown.

VI –Related Research

California's Weed Action Plan

VII – Deployment Potential

Unknown